

A FILE OF INFANTRYMEN.

"For Three Years, or During the War"—At Home in a Shelter Tent, and Abroad with "Three Days' Rations and Forty Rounds of Ammunition."

By JOHN McLEROY.

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

In this war-story, the hero, Walter Armitage, is a youth who is employed in the composing room of an afternoon daily newspaper in Chicago. The country is on the eve of civil war. News of the bombardment of Fort Sumter creates much excitement. A fight between David Bronson, a Unionist, and Dick Moran, a Secessionist, both compositors, results in a victory for the former. Walter, whose office is the situation, is yet unformed, has a discussion with Bronson, who sets forth loyally the conditions that confront the Government. Walter goes down town with Bronson to watch the bulletins at the newspaper offices.

Secessionists, denizens of Chicago's slums, air their opinions of loyal citizens and express desires that some of them would afford an opportunity for an encounter. They are suddenly confronted by one whose voice and manner as he lifts them "good evening" is disquieting to say the least. His name is O'Neil, and he is an ex-Sergeant of Regulars. His warlike attitude and his evident desire for a fight "effectually" quiet the hostlers.

The telegram announces the result of the attack on Fort Sumter.

Moran and a fellow compositor are ousted from the composing-room for their disloyal sentiments.

Walter and Bronson attend a mass-meeting of Unionists, where the call for troops is read and patriotic speech-making arouses the people.

After a long argument with himself, Walter decides to enlist in the Union army. Karl Brentman and Bronson, a fellow compositor, have already announced their intention to go to the war.

The three enlist, as does Patrick O'Neil, and after various camp experiences are ordered to Cairo, which had been seized by the United States Government.

CHAPTER XIII.

A NIGHT EXPEDITION—UNDER FIRE. THE FIRST MAN FALLS—ALONE WITH A DEAD COMRADE—A TRYING PERIOD.

Opposite Cairo, in Missouri, is a steamboat landing called Bird's Point. It is an insignificant place—not so important as an average crossroads collection of houses in Ohio. A wharf-boat and a house or two constitute its entire wealth of habitable structures. But the ground rises two or three feet higher than the tops of the Cairo levees, and a few pieces of artillery planted there would have the camps and houses and fine residences in excellent range. It was expected from the first that the rebels would retaliate for the occupation of Cairo by the seizure and fortification of Bird's Point. This would be the strategy of common sense. The commander at Cairo was continually harassed by reports that this was about to be done, and that a considerable force of rebels had already pushed their way through the swamps to the neighborhood of the place.

Such definite intelligence of this nature reached him one evening that he determined to intercept them by sending a force across to intercept their advance, if there were any made.

The regiment was designated for this duty, and at dark was in silence formed, that any lookout across the river might not become aware of anything unusual being contemplated. As they marched quietly down to the landing place on the Ohio levee Walter, aware that something of importance was intended, summoned all his courage up for the emergency, and reiterated mentally all his resolutions to do his duty as well as weak flesh would permit him. He, as well as his companions, was wholly ignorant of the design of the movement, but they felt that it meant a sanguinary night encounter, and all were silent. The night was intensely dark—that darkness of a Summer night before the moon and stars rise.

Not a word was spoken except an occasional order, given in a low tone. Their feet made no noise as they sank in the dust that covered the levee, but when they began ascending the gang-plank to the deck of the boat the clatter of the hundreds of steps upon the hollow planking rang out discordantly upon the still night. There was a little noise and confusion as they found places on the decks, and then all was quiet again.

Every detail stamped itself upon Walter's tense perception as he stood, musket in hand, leaning with Bronson, Karl, and O'Neil against the upright oars of the bow of the boat.

The gang planks were drawn in by the deck hands at the command of the gruff voiced mate.

"Cast off them head lines," ordered the gruff voice.

An answering splash as the cables fell in the water.

"All gone here, sir," said the gruff voice to someone upon the upper deck.

"All right," came back from above. Then, to the pilot, "Go ahead, Mr. Brown."

Then came the sharp clang of a gong in the engine-room, answered by an explosive puff of steam from the escape pipes and the paddles of the great wheel struck the water a blow that made the boat quiver. Other blows and she began to move—slowly at first, then faster. Her bow swung off from shore and the lights of Cairo began to recede.

Walter gazed after them wistfully, asking himself if he were to ever see them again. The boat turned completely around, and headed towards the Mississippi. All her lights were extinguished and blinds were placed in front of the furnace doors, that the glare might not indicate her coming to those on the Missouri shore. In a few minutes she entered the mighty current of the Mississippi.

The dark, eddying waters swirled up against the bows and seemed to nutter sullenly against the invasion. Black logs struck her savagely and then floated back to be beaten under her wheels.

Walter heard comrades around him whispering directions to each other as to what should be done in case they fell.

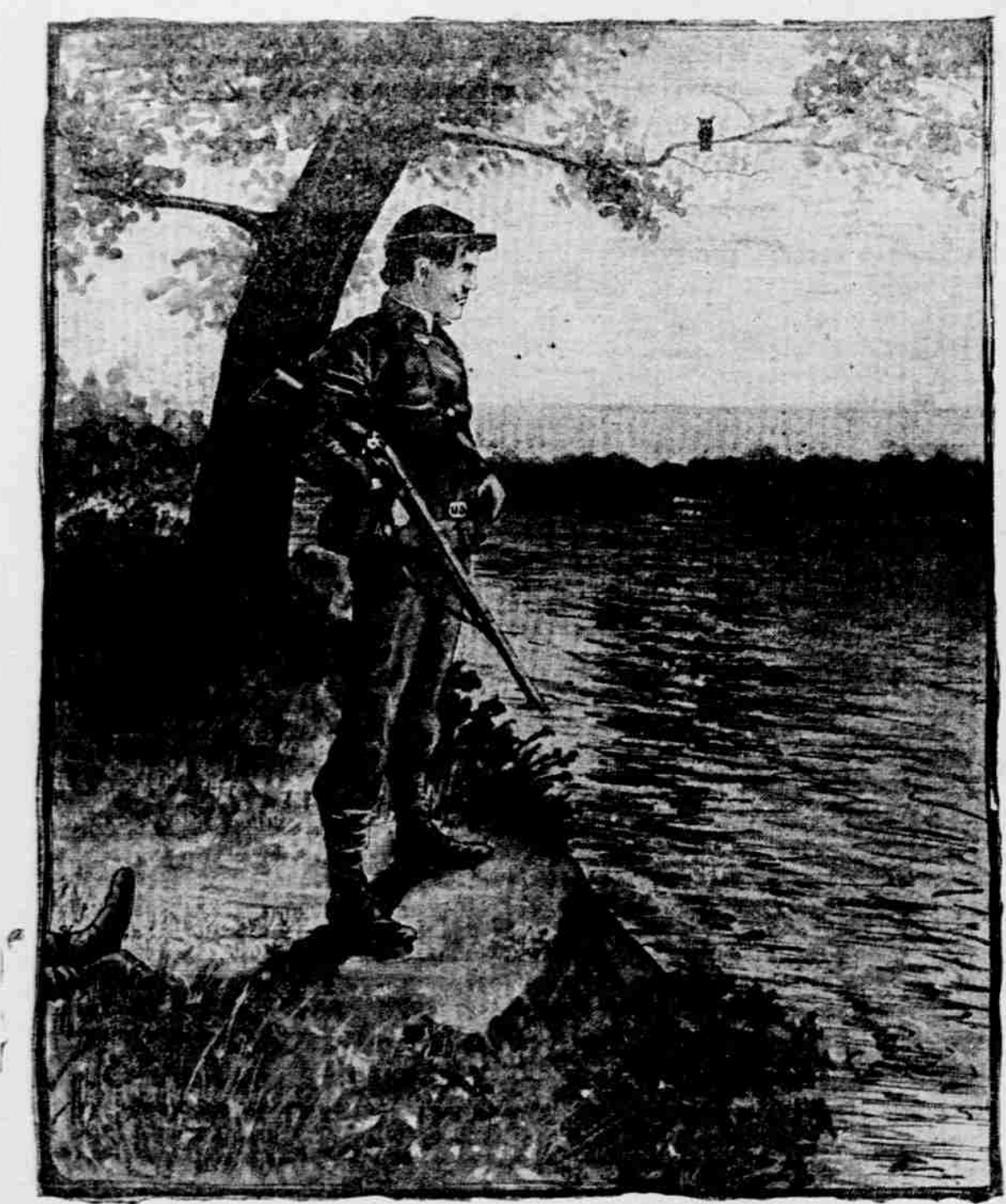
Beyond, the gloomy outlines of the cottonwoods on the Missouri shore began to loom up. If their somber depths contained the enemy, he had not yet manifested his presence.

The gong bells again rang out sharply—startlingly so in contrast with the careful muffling of all other sounds on the boat. The engines slowed down and stopped, the boat's head ran softly up against the bank, a deck hand sprang into the darkness, and in a moment spoke back in a subdued voice:

"All fast, sir."

"Haul in! Make fast! Lanch the plank! So. Steady there," said a gruff voice—low-toned, but still gruff.

"Attention, Co. A. Move off as you came on. Keep quiet, and pay strict attention to orders. See that your cartridge-



A LONELY VOICE.

boxes are all handy. Forward, march!" whispered Capt. Moore.

Up the soft, yielding bank they went, making no sound after their feet left the gang plank except an occasional clink of a bayonet's shank against a tin cup or a musket barrel. Shortly after reaching the top of the bank the Colonel, accompanied by his staff, rode past them and took places at the head of the column. The line of march turned obliquely to the left, and followed a road leading into the country.

They marched on for some time, and the strange expectancy with which they had disembarked began to abate so far as to allow perception of the fatigue of marching in the dark over a rough and strange road. The line began to stretch out as the intervals between the men became greater and more irregular.

Suddenly they heard the clatter of horses' hoofs as the Colonel and staff rode upon a bridge.

At the next instant the darkness upon Walter's left was cut by a level blaze of fire that ran away off into the woods. Then came a sharp rattle and a yell.

The man in front of Walter sank to the ground with a peculiar motion, as if every muscle had relaxed its hold at the same instant.

Agonized groans rang out from men behind Walter, and someone shrieked:

"My God! I am shot!"

For one flash of time Walter was astonished beyond comprehension. What could this be? The next flash of thought was a revelation.

"Why, this is a fight. The rebels are over there shooting at us! These men have been killed!"

The next thought was as to his duty. Instantly his musket's butt came to the ground. The despatch drill of "loading in nine times" now manifested its use.

He had snatched a cartridge out of his box, torn it between his teeth, poured its contents into the gun, rammed it, "cast about" and capped, before he was aware of what he was doing. He leveled his gun in the direction of the flashes and fired. As he did so his excitement increased. Another shot followed almost unconsciously another and another, until he was suddenly brought to his senses by Capt. Moore saying to him:

"Stop firing! Don't you hear the orders to cease firing?"

This was so. The rebels stationed to guard the bridge had fired but once and then run. The cooler of the officers soon noticed that there was no longer any return fire, and the Colonel had ordered the regiment to cease firing.

Most of the men heard and obeyed, but Walter had become so wrought up as to be oblivious to everything except the necessity of getting as many shots as possible into the enemy's ranks in the shortest space of time.

An examination showed that the man who had fallen in front of Walter was stone dead. An ounce ball had gone into his forehead at the roots of his hair, opening a trench through the top of his head almost big enough to lay a musket barrel in. The other boys were shot

through the body, and probably were mortally wounded. Several had slight wounds in the legs and arms. The rebel muskets were loaded with "buck and ball," and at the close range the effect was terrible.

It was decided to send the dead and badly wounded back to the river, while the regiment pressed on after the flying rebels. Walter was ordered to make one of the party to carry the boys back, and Bronson was put in charge of the work.

The regimental line was restored, and the column moved on. Each of the dead and wounded was lifted up on a couple of muskets by four boys and the procession started back. The carriers stumbled painfully in the darkness over the rough road, to the intense anguish of the wounded.

At last the landing place was reached, but the steamboat was gone. The Captain had either mistaken his order or become alarmed at the firing, and returned to Cairo.

By this time the moon had come up, full and bright. Bronson searched around the bank until he at length found a large skiff with oars. He put the wounded in this and took the rest of the squad with him to help row to Cairo as rapidly as possible to obtain surgical

aid of his circulation to a certain degree, and he made another essay to calmly contemplate it. The eyes still stared and the teeth glittered, and the smirk about the lips became more pronounced. It seemed as if it were actually trying to return to life.

Walter forced himself up to it and took hold of one of the hands. It was cold. There was no mistake about the frightful gash through the head which had torn out the brains. The moonlight showed that in all its hideous raggedness. Sick at heart with the sight and smell of blood, he picked up his musket and paced off to the next cottonwood, keeping his back to it.

He would look at it no more. But such was the horrible fascination that the resolution would not hold out. He turned slowly around and before he was aware of it, his eyes were again fixed on its face.

The quivering moonbeams brought out that fearful smile stronger than ever. Now it was a wicked leer, seemingly a sneer at him, as if it were mocking him for his cowardice. Now more than ever it seemed to come back to life. In spite of himself he hastened to its side, and seizing one of its stiffened hands shouted:

"Pete! Pete! Pete! Are you alive?"

Then, from a neighboring tree to which he had flown, the hateful screech-owl screamed more fiend-like than ever, as if she were some bird-formed devil, gloating over the night's work and Walter's terror. And the horned-owls answered each other in a demoniac chorus.

Walter snatched up another club and again drove her from her perch.

So the interminable hours wore on. Walter would try to walk around upon it, to keep his eyes from resting upon it, but it was impossible. Something continually drew his steps and his eyes back and made the story stare and sardonic grin burn deeper into his very heart.

At last the moon began to go down to the west, and as her rays grew a little dimmer, a great thick rattlesnake crawled slowly out of the brush towards the body. Walter was leaning in exhaustion against the bole of a cottonwood a couple of rods away, and as the snake drew out to its full length he instinctively shrank back, and in doing so made a little noise.

The snake took instant alarm, and sounding its fearful rattle, coiled itself for a spring, and thrusting forth its forked tongue, looked around with gleaming eyes and hissed fiercely. Evidently it did not, or could not, see as far as Walter, for as he did not repeat the noise, it recoiled itself and began again to crawl towards the corpse. It apparently had no misgivings about any life remaining there, for it crawled directly across its neck and disappeared in a clump of bushes. Walter tried to summon up resolution enough to attack it with his bayonet, but his courage was too much shaken by all that he had gone through. He felt as if every hair in his head must be bleached from a raven black to a snowy white.

At last—at last the gray dawn appeared, and a little after sunrise the regiment came straggling back, muddy, weary and hungry beyond description. It had not overtaken the rebels who had fired into it, nor found the camp it was expected would be found.

(To be continued.)

EDITORIAL NOTE.—Dramatic details of soldier life, now especially attractive to old and young, make this story of the civil war one of the most absorbing ever written. Each chapter contains incidents and descriptions told always entertainingly, often humorously, and never failing in being true to life and accurate in historical points.

PENSION DECISIONS.

Cases Disposed of by Assistant Secretary Davis.

In the case of Welcome W., father of Frederick De F. Smith, the claimant's son was alleged to have served during the late war, on the U. S. S. Monticello, as a seaman, and to have died of Debility, while in such service. The claim was denied. The claimant was a dependent father was rejected on the ground that the man's death was not in line of duty, on appeal claiming service in the regular army. The claimant's son was not in line of duty at the time of meeting death. Rejection of the claim is based on the fact that the claimant's son was not in line of duty at the time of meeting death. Rejection of the claim is based on the fact that the claimant's son was not in line of duty at the time of meeting death.

When he came in full view of it his knees shook and his heart leaped into his mouth. The moonbeams came down through the leaves of the trees and fell full upon the face of the corpse as it lay upon its back. The eyes were wide open—staring. The white teeth glittered and the shifting moonbeams made the lips appear to shape themselves into a ghastly grin. At that instant a piercing shriek rang out from the top of the cottonwood beneath which the corpse lay. In the agony of fear which curdled his blood, Walter clutched his gun to his shoulder to fire. Great heavens! he must do something or go wild. Then came the thought that stayed him.

"What shall I fire at? At it? Or in the air? What good will it do?"

Then as if in response to the shriek came a number of "who!—who!—who-e-e-e!" from horned owls round about, and Walter collected his wits enough to understand that it was a screech-owl that had frightened him so. He let the hammer of his gun down again, and setting the butt upon the ground, leaned upon the muzzle while until he could compose himself.

He picked up a club, and flinging it spitefully into the top of the cottonwood, drove the screecher out. The exercise restored his courage and the horror of his circulation to a certain degree, and he made another essay to calmly contemplate it. The eyes still stared and the teeth glittered, and the smirk about the lips became more pronounced. It seemed as if it were actually trying to return to life.

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DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

Abstract of the Important Proceedings.

In the Senate on June 7 the Census bill was considered. Mr. Carter, in charge of the bill, proposed an amendment providing that, in addition to the Director and Assistant Director of Census and five expert statisticians, not more than 25 persons shall be appointed to the Census before Jan. 1, 1899. Mr. Cockrell (Mo., D.) accepted the amendment in lieu of one offered by him the day before, and it was agreed to.

Mr. Cockrell offered an amendment striking out the provision that the Census should be subjected to such examination as the Director, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, may prescribe. In lieu thereof he proposed that the Census should be examined and certified by the Civil Service Commission. He maintained that, as provided for in the bill, the appointments would be "spoils" appointments, and he felt that there was no more reason why the Census employees should be exempted from Civil Service examinations than there was for the exemption of other employees of the Government. It was voted, too, he thought, of the pledges of the political parties.

In the House Mr. Cannon, from the Committee on Appropriations, presented a conference report of partial agreement upon the sundry civil bill, which was agreed to. Mr. Cannon moved a further insistence of the House upon its disagreement to the remaining amendments of the Senate, but withdrew at the suggestion of Mr. Sayers (Tex., D.) that a separate vote upon many of the amendments was desired and would expedite disposal of the measure.

The bill providing for the participation of volunteer soldiers in Congressional elections during the existence of the present war was taken up. Mr. Lacey (Iowa, R.) said the bill found constitutional warrant in the section giving Congress power to make or alter regulations prescribed by the States Legislature affecting the times, places and manner of holding elections for Representatives. Consideration of the measure precipitated a prolonged colloquy on questions of constitutional construction.

In the House Mr. Dingley, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, presented the conference report on the war revenue bill.

After the reading of the report and statement of the House conferees, Mr. Dingley said the desire of the Committee was to enact the bill into law this week, especially in view of the fact that great losses would be avoided by early passage of the measure.

Mr. Bailey said he appreciated that the bill would pass, and in view of that, he realized the importance of early action. In response to Mr. Dingley's query, he said no difficulty would be experienced in reaching a vote by night.

At night the House agreed to the conference report on the war revenue bill by a vote of 134 to 107.

The conference agreement upon the war revenue bill is a compromise upon all the important subjects of controversy. The bill has been improved, and if the agreement is satisfactory to the Treasury officials than it was either in the form it passed the House or as it afterward passed the Senate.

The provision for the issuance of bonds and debt certificates, as now agreed upon, will enable the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bonds at once, without regard to the debt certificates, if the latter proposition may be enforced only as it is deemed to be advisable and practicable by the Secretary of the Treasury. The popular loan feature is retained.

In the Senate on June 8 the census bill, providing for the appointment of clerks and employees by the Director and the Secretary of the Interior, passed. The civil service amendment, offered by Senator Cockrell of Missouri, the previous day, after a warm debate, was rejected by a vote of 31 to 18.

Mr. Hale, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, introduced a bill to organize a hospital corps of the United States Navy, to define its duties, and regulate its pay. The bill was passed.

The House passed an open clash of Administration Republicans with Speaker Reed over Hawaiian annexation came.

The Republicans who want annexation and action by the President immediately, in accordance with the President's wishes, have chafed under Speaker Reed's tactics in delaying consideration. With Chairman Cannon of the Committee on Appropriations, as his ally, and plenty of conference reports on appropriation bills at hand to occupy all the spare time of the House, the Speaker has been able to effectively check the annexationists.

The belief grew during the week that the Speaker would carry through his promise of disposing of the appropriation bills at once and effect an adjournment of Congress within a week or two. This morning, however, the Speaker's resolutions to further threats of a party caucus, and a peremptory petition was circulated.

Mr. Grosvenor failed in his request for a rule on the Hawaiian annexation resolutions, but returned to the attack later in the day. The afternoon had been consumed on the sundry civil conference report and Postoffice conference report, which was completed, and with the Lacey bill. Representative S. W. Smith, of Michigan, made the motion to adjourn, which brought Gen. Grosvenor immediately to his feet, protesting that he had a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. Smith's motion to adjourn was being pressed, and the Ohio member had not been recognized. It was generally understood that the Lacey bill, still unfinished, would come up the next day and he proceeded to find out the effect of adjournment that Gen. Grosvenor rose.

A wrangle followed. Gen. Grosvenor, in response to someone's remark, who had suggested that adjournment would be equivalent to a continuing order, making the election bill privileged to-day, said, angrily: "Yes, I know it is a continuing order, and it is a continuing order to obstruct the passage of the Hawaiian resolutions."

Representative Lacey, of Iowa, was heard to declare, "The gentleman should be ashamed to make such an accusation," addressing, with much vigor, Gen. Grosvenor.

After the commotion was quieted, Gen. Grosvenor put his query to the Speaker, who said the effect of adjournment would leave the election bill the privileged business, to be called up immediately after convening; but he added that the question of consideration could be raised, and the House to-day could vote to displace the bill.

Tellers were ordered upon the motion to adjourn, and the Speaker was proceeding when the Speaker interrupted to say: "It is fair to say to the House that, upon reflection, I doubt the correctness of the vote given to the gentleman from Ohio. The Chair is not quite certain as to the exact language employed on yesterday in making the bill privileged to-day, and if that language should be taken to mean that the matter was to proceed to consideration until disposed of, the question of consideration could not be raised to-morrow. The language did not appear this morning in the Record."

The vote on adjournment resulted, aye, 89, no, 80.

In the Senate on June 9 a claims bill was passed that included the Bowman act claims, the French spoliation claims and all other claims against the Government which have been adjudicated by the Court of Claims. It was offered as a substitute in the Senate for the House bill, providing for the payment of the Bowman act claims.

The measure went to conference and was probably modified by the exclusion of many of the claims not adjudicated under the Bowman act. The Bowman act claims include all those Southern claims that have been passed upon by the court.

The Senate on June 10 agreed to the conference report on the war revenue bill by a vote of 45 to 22.

Yens—Messrs. Aldrich, Allison, Baker, Burrows, Caffery, Carter, Chandler, Clark, Cullom, Deboe, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Frye, Gorman, Gurnea, Hanna, Hansbrough, Hawley, Hoar, Kyle, Lindsay, McBride, McHenry, Manton, Mason, Mitchell, Morgan, Morrill, Murphy, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt, of Connecticut, Pritchard, Quay, Shoup, Turpie, Warren, Wellington, Wilson, Wolcott—Aye, 109, no, 129—and the bill was then passed—109 yeas, 129 nays.

An election case was called up. Mr. Grosvenor, pursuant to the purpose of the Hawaiian annexationists to force, if possible, the taking up of the New Hawaii annexation resolution, immediately raised the question of consideration against the bill. Upon a rising vote the rule of the House was invoked, and Mr. Grosvenor demanded a roll call.

The Cannon (Ill., R.) said: "I want to ask the gentleman from Ohio if the raising of the question of consideration means the bringing up of Hawaii?"

Mr. Grosvenor responded. Mr. Grosvenor, the election case having been raised for the regular order, which, under the rule, would be the privileged business, Mr. Grosvenor immediately moved to consider public business.

In the House (Tenn., D.) made a point of order against the resolution and produced a parliamentary argument was precipitated, at the conclusion of which the Speaker ruled that the power of the House to vote upon the motion of Mr. Grosvenor to consider public business could be done only by vote of the House.

A vote was taken and Mr. Grosvenor's motion prevailed—140 yeas.

The proposition to consider public business was then taken up, but eventually an understanding was reached whereby the House agreed to begin consideration of the Hawaiian resolution, and then from day to day until 5 o'clock next Wednesday afternoon, when a vote would be taken.

In the House on June 11 the debate on the Hawaiian resolutions began. Six resolutions were made, covering generally the contents of the resolutions, and the opposition to the resolutions providing for annexation. Representatives Hitt and Democratic members, respectively, of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, opened the debate for and against annexation. Representative Clark, of Missouri, spoke in opposition, and Representative Walker, of Massachusetts, Alexander, of New York, and Gillett, of Massachusetts, in advocacy of the proposition. Mr. Hitt reviewed the provisions of the New Hawaii resolution as being practically identical with those of the treaty before the Senate and with the one negotiated five years ago. The only question to be considered was whether it would be wise for this Government to take what was offered. Probably 40 members will make speeches.

Mr. Hitt urged annexation as a military necessity. Mr. Dinsmore declared annexation unconstitutional. Mr. Alexander urged the strategic importance of the position of the island. Mr. Clark spoke against an alleged "enlarged colonization policy," as "barbarous in appearance, but fatal in experience."

Yens—Messrs. Aldrich, Allison, Baker, Burrows, Caffery, Carter, Chandler, Clark, Cullom, Deboe, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Frye, Gorman, Gurnea, Hanna, Hansbrough, Hawley, Hoar, Kyle, Lindsay, McBride, McHenry, Manton, Mason, Mitchell, Morgan, Morrill, Murphy, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt, of Connecticut, Pritchard, Quay, Shoup, Turpie, Warren, Wellington, Wilson, Wolcott—Aye, 109, no, 129—and the bill was then passed—109 yeas, 129 nays.

In the House the Lacey bill, providing for the participation of volunteer soldiers in Congressional elections, was called up, it being the privileged business under a continuing order.

The Opponents (N. Y., D.) moved to reconsider the bill with instructions to report it with an added provision extending the suffrage privilege to members of the naval reserve.

A roll call was taken, resulting in the defeat of the motion to reconsider—aye, 100, noes, 129—and the bill was then passed—109 yeas, 129 nays.

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